

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of crimping an electrical contact having a closed-section barrel, which is initially convex in shape, onto a cable with multiple conducting strands in order to produce a crimped contact, the barrel of which is crimped by deforming the section thereof from an initial generally convex shape to a final crimped shape in which it is compression-necked onto the strands of the cable in such a way that at least one section of the crimp barrel has, in its thickness, at least two adjacent indentations, which extend along the outer periphery of said section and which are directed inward, said method comprising successive steps, which consist of:

inserting the end of the cable to be crimped into the barrel of the contact; and

compression-necking the barrel onto the cable by a die stamping operation so as to impart to the barrel a intermediate necked form that is generally convex in cross section,

and being characterized in that it comprises, in addition, a punching operation, by means of which the indentations are formed in the barrel, said punching operation being performed after the die stamping operation.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further characterized in that the intermediate necked shape is generally polygonal, particularly hexagonal.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further characterized in that the die stamping operation is carried out by means of a die in two parts, which is squeezed onto the barrel so as to close the die, and the punching operation is carried out while the die is kept closed, the two parts of the die being kept pressed against each other.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, further characterized in that the punching operation is carried out by means of a single punch for each pair of adjacent indentations.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~use of a~~ method according to claim 1 ~~to make a contact in which~~ wherein said two indentations are formed adjacent in such a way as to define a double indentation in a W shape.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 5 ~~for making a contact in which, in addition,~~ wherein said crimped barrel section ~~has~~ is formed with a symmetry in relation to at least one first central transverse axis (Y).

7. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 6, further characterized in that said section of crimped barrel ~~has~~ is formed with a symmetry in relation to a second central transverse axis (Z), which is perpendicular to the first axis.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 6, further characterized in that said section of crimped barrel

~~has~~ is formed with two other indentations, which are symmetrical to the preceding ones in relation to said first central transverse axis (Y).

9. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 8, further characterized in that said section of crimped barrel ~~has exclusively~~ is formed with only the four indentations.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 5, further characterized in that the crimped barrel ~~has~~ is formed, in a second section that is axially displaced in relation to the first section, with indentations that are analogous to those formed in said first section.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 5, further characterized in that the section of the crimped barrel ~~has~~ is formed with a generally polygonal outer shape.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 11, further characterized in that each pair of adjacent indentations is formed on the same edge of the polygonal shape.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 11, further characterized in that the section of the crimped barrel ~~has~~ is formed with a generally hexagonal outer shape.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~ method according to the claim 5, further characterized in that the indentations ~~are provided for imparting~~ impart to the conducting strands, in the interior of the barrel, a homogeneous deformation, independently of their individual position in the interior of the barrel.

15. (Withdrawn) A crimping tool for implementing a method in accordance with claim 1, comprising:

a die in two parts, which define, in the interior, a stamp corresponding to the intermediate necked shape to be imparted to the barrel,

a means of relative movement of the two parts of the die,

at least one punch for making the indentations in the barrel, and

a means of movement said punch,

characterized in that the means of movement of the punch are linked to those of the die parts in such a way that, during a crimping operation, the punch is moved from a retracted position, in which it is disengaged from the stamp of the die, to an active position, in which it projects into the interior of the stamp after the die is closed.

16. (Withdrawn) The tool according to claim 15, further characterized in that the die defines, in the interior, a stamp, which is generally polygonal, particularly hexagonal.

17. (Withdrawn) The tool according to claim 15, further characterized in that it comprises at least one punch with at least two teeth, which are provided for jointly making two indentations.

18. (Withdrawn) The tool according to claim 17, further characterized in that it comprises two punches, which are

symmetrical in relation to a crimping plane (P) of the die, and the associated means of movement are appropriate for displacing them in a symmetric manner in relation to this plane (P).

19. (Withdrawn) The tool according to claim 15, further characterized in that the punch(es) is (are) dependent on the means of relative movement of the two die parts such that the movement of the punch(es) from its (their) retracted position is possible only after the die has been closed.

20. (Withdrawn) The tool according to claim 15, further characterized in that the means of movement of the two parts of the die and the means of movement of the punches comprise a joint drive motor and transmission units with respective cams, by means of which the parts of the die, on the one hand, and the punches, on the other hand, are linked to said drive motor.

21. (Withdrawn) The tool according to claim 15, further characterized in that the means of movement of the two parts of the die and the means of movement of the punch comprise distinct drive motors, the means of movement of the die parts comprising a means of control of their relative position and the means of movement of the punch comprising a means of controlling the associated motor, subject to the said means of control.